

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Forrest Mandeville, on February 22, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 455 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Forrest Mandeville, Chair (R)  
Rep. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Jacob Bachmeier (D)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Frank Garner (R)  
Rep. Edward Greef (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)  
Rep. Dennis R. Lenz (R)  
Rep. Jean Price (D)  
Rep. Walt Sales (R)  
Rep. Derek Skees (R)  
Rep. Scott Staffanson (R)  
Rep. Kathy Swanson (D)  
Rep. Peggy Webb (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. McKamey (R)  
Rep. Karjala (D)  
Rep. A. Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Shaw (R)  
Rep. Webber (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary  
Sheri Scurr, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 447, 2/14/2017; HB 448, 2/14/2017

00:01:53 Rep. McKamey joined meeting

**HEARING ON HB 447**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:18 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 447, Authorize cancellation of local uncontested general elections by municipalities.

[EXHIBIT\(sth39a01\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:21 Linda Stoll, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

[EXHIBIT\(sth39a02\)](#)

00:07:08 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

00:08:05 Lanny Christman, Self

00:08:59 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(sth39a03\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:18 Rep. Staffanson

00:11:57 Rep. Fitzgerald

00:12:05 Chair Mandeville

00:12:08 Rep. Staffanson

00:12:16 Linda Stoll, MACR

00:13:53 Rep. Staffanson

00:13:58 Linda Stoll, MACR

00:14:03 Rep. Staffanson

00:14:21 Rep. Skees

00:14:53 Linda Stoll, MACR

00:15:36 Rep. Skees

00:15:51 Linda Stoll, MACR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:16:36 Rep. Fitzgerald

**HEARING ON HB 448**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:17:19 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 448, Revise county election laws to allow for nonpartisan elections.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:18:13 Commissioner Susan Good Geise, Lewis and Clark County

00:27:47 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:35:20 Lanny Christman, Self

00:36:04 Commissioner Laura Obert, Broadwater County

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:40:02	Rep. Skees
00:40:22	Commissioner Laura Obert, Broadwater County
00:40:39	Rep. Skees
00:41:27	Commissioner Susan Good Geise, Lewis and Clark County
00:41:53	Rep. Skees
00:42:01	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:42:45	Rep. Hayman
00:43:20	Commissioner Susan Good Geise, Lewis and Clark County
00:46:28	Rep. Staffanson
00:47:20	Commissioner Laura Obert, Broadwater County
00:48:11	Rep. Staffanson
00:48:43	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:49:04	Chair Mandeville
00:49:21	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:50:51	Chair Mandeville
00:51:11	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:53:20	Chair Mandeville
00:53:26	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:53:31	Chair Mandeville
00:53:37	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:55:23	Chair Mandeville
00:55:31	Harold Blattie, MACo
00:55:53	Chair Mandeville
00:56:36	Harold Blattie, MACo

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:57:19	Rep. Fitzgerald
00:58:04	Chair Mandeville
00:59:22	Rep. Custer
00:59:44	Chair Mandeville

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:

01:00:27

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Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([sth39aad.pdf](#))**